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A  
DISSERTATION  
ON THE PRESENT  
BOUNTY LAWS,  
FOR THE  
ENCOURAGEMENT  
OF  
AGRICULTURE  
IN  
IRELAND.

SUBMITTED TO THE CONSIDERATION OF  
PARLIAMENT.

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M,DCC,LXXX.





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A

DISSERTATION

ON THE PRESENT

BOUNTY LAWS.

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THE following treatise on the present Bounty Laws, for the encouragement of agriculture, is submitted to the consideration of parliament. The author flatters himself the members of that House of Commons who have so lately acquired a free trade to their country, will attend to a subject of such vast importance as the preservation of agriculture; it being the surest foundation of all commerce, and wishes that the legislature and the public would examine into the effects of these laws, free from prejudice; but judge and determine only as the arguments are deduced from solid facts.

The first act that was passed in 1758, gave a bounty at the rate of one halfpenny

per mile, for every twenty stone of wheat, rye, messin, bere, barley, malt, oats, flour, and meal, brought by land-carriage to the city of Dublin, at a distance beyond the first ten miles. This first act seemed to have no particular prepossession in favour of mills, but in 1760, an amendment was made to the former act, giving an additional premium of a halfpenny per hundred weight on flour and malt, for every mile brought to Dublin by land-carriage, except the first ten. It is matter of astonishment how gentlemen of landed property, within the usual distance of supplying the metropolis, and they whose estates lay in the northern manufacturing counties, could let so partial a scheme pass into a law; which at once tended to destroy agriculture where already planted, and render food still more dear, by turning away to Dublin the supply that might otherwise have gone to the distant inhabitant.

Whatever encouragement this law might hold out to the distant inland farmer, he had very little temptation to turn his land from pasturage to tillage; for in 1758, the year the first act passed, the middle price  
of



of wheat continued on an average, in Dublin market, for the whole year at 14s. 6d. per barrel; which shews the citizens of Dublin, that the present low price of wheat and flour, is not owing to the land-carriage bounty. In 1759, corn continued almost as cheap: good Irish flour sold for the same price of the best English, viz. 11s. 6d. per hundred weight.

The inland bounty that year, came to 4299l. and continued with little variation till 1761; when a gentleman built a small mill within thirteen miles of Dublin, and applied to parliament for encouragement; who gave him the whole sum it cost, viz. 2000l. and the following session gave him 1500l. more to purchase corn to carry it on; yet as if to shew the little effect of all such bounties, it is the only flour mill that for some years has stood still. It was not the land-carriage bounty, but the prodigality of parliament in this particular instance, that set many persons of large capitals to the building of mills, and in consequence expected a proportionable reward; but parliament being ashamed of the late job, they were disappointed.

The law for bringing corn and flour to Dublin by land-carriage, was then particularly examined; when it was discovered, that it made no distinction, whether the flour was produced from Irish or foreign corn. This opened the eyes of many persons, to see, if there was not an amendment made to this law; that all the flour usually sent directly from England to Dublin, would now be manufactured out of English or foreign corn, sent into the remote ports of the kingdom, there manufactured, and sent up to Dublin at the expense of five or six pounds a ton, and would act as a great additional bounty to the importation of corn into this kingdom. The English give a bounty of three shillings, our barrel, on the export; and we gave an additional bounty on the import, of as much more; to the destruction of our agriculture.

In 1768, a bill was brought into parliament by a gentleman who has been the guardian of the linen manufacture, to amend and render more equal, the effects of this law, by restraining the payment of the bounty, to flour produced from corn the growth of this kingdom only, and to reduce  
the



the bounty to two-pence per hundred weight on flour, for every five miles brought to the city of Dublin; this would exactly pay the carriage from every part of the kingdom; which would take away the strong objection of the distant manufacturer being deprived of his subsistence, without he paid higher for his food than it sold for in Dublin; and would, in some measure, have rectified the injustice of this law,—that an acre of land one hundred miles from the metropolis, for its supply in corn, shall be of more value, than if within five miles.—This bill was greatly altered, except in the preamble, which recites—

“Whereas the said premiums or bounties directed by a former act to be paid for flour of wheat brought by land-carriage to the city of Dublin, are much higher than the cost and charge of the carriage of such flour, to the diminution of the public revenue.”—Therefore the bounty on flour and malt shall be raised to three pence per hundred, for every five miles, and the bounty on all kinds of corn advanced to three times the amount allowed by the former act. We shall shortly  
see

see the effects these alterations had on the public revenue.—The partial encouragement to bring flour at a great distance, was still more increased; the only amendment was, that flour made out of foreign corn should receive no bounty. The debating this subject so fully in the House of Commons made it generally known. In consequence, mills were built in remote parts of the kingdom; the only consideration was, to get as far distant as possible from the market they intended to supply. What little corn grew in their neighbourhood, was eagerly bought up and manufactured into flour for the Dublin market; and as the people were deprived of even the coarsest part of this corn, without they paid a much higher price than it sold for in Dublin, large quantities of corn and flour are imported to supply the inhabitants; which will appear fully by the imports and exports for the last ten years, taken from the public entries; which shews that this bounty has had little effect in increasing the general agriculture of the kingdom, (in proportion to the greatness of the expence) only destroying it in some places, and encouraging it in others.

IMPORTS





I M P O R T S for 1770.

Barley and Malt	71028 Barrels.	£. 44392 13 —
Beans and Pease	1505	752 15 —
Oats	88	28 12 —
Wheat	87066	87065 15 —
Flour	86776 cwt. 1 21	52065 17 3
Wheat Meal	1854 Barrels.	2781 — —
Oat Meal	104 cwt.	36 8 —
		<hr/> 187123 — 3

I M P O R T S for 1771.

Barley and Malt	111240 Barrels.	69525 — —
Beans and Pease	4714	2356 17 6
Oats	3640	1274 — —
Wheat	106898	106897 15 —
Flour	125321 cwt. 3 7	75193 1 9
Wheat Meal	3686 Barrels.	5529 — —
Oat Meal	14625 cwt. 3	5119 — 3
		<hr/> 265894 14 6

I M P O R T S for 1772.

Barley and Malt	44744 Barrels.	27965 — —
Beans and Pease	1673	836 15 —
Oats	703	246 1 —
Wheat	24327	24327 — —
Flour	47754 cwt. 1 21	28652 13 4
Wheat Meal	2904 Barrels. 2	4356 15 —
Oat Meal	13599 cwt. 3	4759 18 3
		<hr/> 91144 2 7

I M P O R T S for 1773.

Barley and Malt	13940 Barrels.	8712 10 —
Beans and Pease	857	428 10 —
Oats	112	39 4 —
Wheat	5723	5722 10 —
Flour	10306 cwt. — 7	6183 12 9
Wheat Meal	782 Barrels.	1173 — —
Oat Meal	1495 cwt.	523 5 —
		<hr/> 22782 11 9

I M P O R T S for 1774.

Barley and Malt	378 Barrels.	236 8 —
Beans and Pease	963	602 2 —
Oats	667	250 6 —
Wheat	8209	8893 12 6
Flour	23465 cwt. — 7	14079 — 9
Wheat Meal	759 Barrels.	1138 10 —
Oat Meal	430 cwt.	150 10 —
		<hr/> 25350 9 3

Carried forward

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592294 18 4



Brought over £. 592294 18 4

I M P O R T S for 1775.

Barley and Malt	1313 Barrels.	£. 820 6 —
Beans and Pease	2221	1388 5 —
Oats	8	3 — —
Wheat	6470	7009 14 —
Flour	28902 cwt. 2 7	17341 10 9
Wheat Meal	1600 Barrels.	2400 — —
Oat Meal	1171 cwt. 3	410 2 —
		<hr/> 29372 17 9

I M P O R T S for 1776.

Barley and Malt	15715 Barrels.	8643 5 —
Beans and Pease	1563	976 19 —
Oats	48	18 — —
Wheat	15095	16353 9 —
Flour	26292 cwt. 3 7	15775 13 9
Wheat Meal	682 Barrels.	1023 — —
Oat Meal	—	— — —
		<hr/> 42790 6 9

I M P O R T S for 1777.

Barley and Malt	86203 Barrels.	47411 13 —
Beans and Pease	12612	7882 6 —
Oats	775	290 16 —
Wheat	6914	7490 3 4
Flour	69838 cwt. 3	41903 5 —
Wheat Meal	36 Barrels.	48 — —
Oat Meal	1558 cwt. 2	545 9 6
		<hr/> 105571 12 10

I M P O R T S for 1778.

Barley and Malt	73726 Barrels.	44235 12 —
Beans and Pease	1822	1366 10 —
Oats	242	96 16 —
Wheat	4954	4954 — —
Flour	5239 cwt.	3143 8 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	11584 cwt.	4633 12 —
		<hr/> 58429 18 —

I M P O R T S for 1779.

Barley and Malt	62718 Barrels.	37630 16 —
Beans and Pease	3942	2956 10 —
Oats	3520	1408 — —
Wheat	21138	21138 — —
Flour	6968 cwt.	4180 16 —
Wheat Meal	410 Barrels.	410 — —
Oat Meal	86964 cwt.	34785 12 —
		<hr/> 102509 14 —
		<hr/> 930969 7 8



[ 11 ]

E X P O R T S for 1770.		
Barley and Malt	5740 Barrels.	£. 3593 15 —
Beans and Pease	174	87 — —
Oats	32310	10500 15 —
Wheat	102	102 — —
Rye	—	— — —
Bread	5597 cwt. 3	3918 8 6
Flour	16 cwt. 2	10 2 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	21292 cwt. 2	7452 7 6
		<u>25664 8 —</u>
E X P O R T S for 1771.		
Barley and Malt	1104 Barrels.	690 — —
Beans and Pease	42	21 — —
Oats	8044	2815 8 —
Wheat	—	— — —
Rye	—	— — —
Bread	8006 cwt. — 7	5604 4 10½
Flour	38 cwt. 3	23 5 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	762 cwt.	266 14 —
		<u>9420 11 10½</u>
E X P O R T S for 1772.		
Barley and Malt	3452 Barrels.	2157 10 —
Beans and Pease	178	89 — —
Oats	35198	12319 6 —
Wheat	1694	1694 — —
Rye	20	15 — —
Bread	4575 cwt. 2 21	3202 19 7½
Flour	262 cwt. 3	157 13 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	31152 cwt.	10903 4 —
		<u>30538 12 7½</u>
E X P O R T S for 1773.		
Barley and Malt	16772 Barrels.	10482 10 —
Beans and Pease	966	483 — —
Oats	25626	8969 2 —
Wheat	4374	4374 — —
Rye	82	61 10 —
Bread	5827 cwt. 3	4079 8 6
Flour	154 cwt.	92 8 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	15447 cwt. 2	5406 12 6
		<u>33948 11 —</u>
E X P O R T S for 1774.		
Barley and Malt	36522 Barrels.	22826 5 —
Beans and Pease	1614	1008 15 —
Oats	93326	32664 2 —
Wheat	1622	1757 3 4
Rye	206	154 10 —
Bread	5090 cwt. — 7	3563 — 10½
Flour	1525 cwt. 2	915 6 —
Wheat Meal	—	— — —
Oat Meal	64163 cwt. 3	22457 6 3
		<u>85346 8 5½</u>

Carried forward — — 184918 11 11½



		Brought over		
EXPORTS		for 1775.	£. 184918 11 11½	
Barley and Malt	38678 Barrels.	£. 23206 16 —		
Beans and Pease	268	167 12 —		
Oats	58368	21888 — —		
Wheat	7350	7962 10 —		
Rye	210	157 10 —		
Bread	4012 cwt.	2808 8 —		
Flour	4699 cwt. 3	2819 17 —		
Wheat Meal		— — —		
Oat Meal	28845 cwt.	10095 15 —		
			69106 8 —	

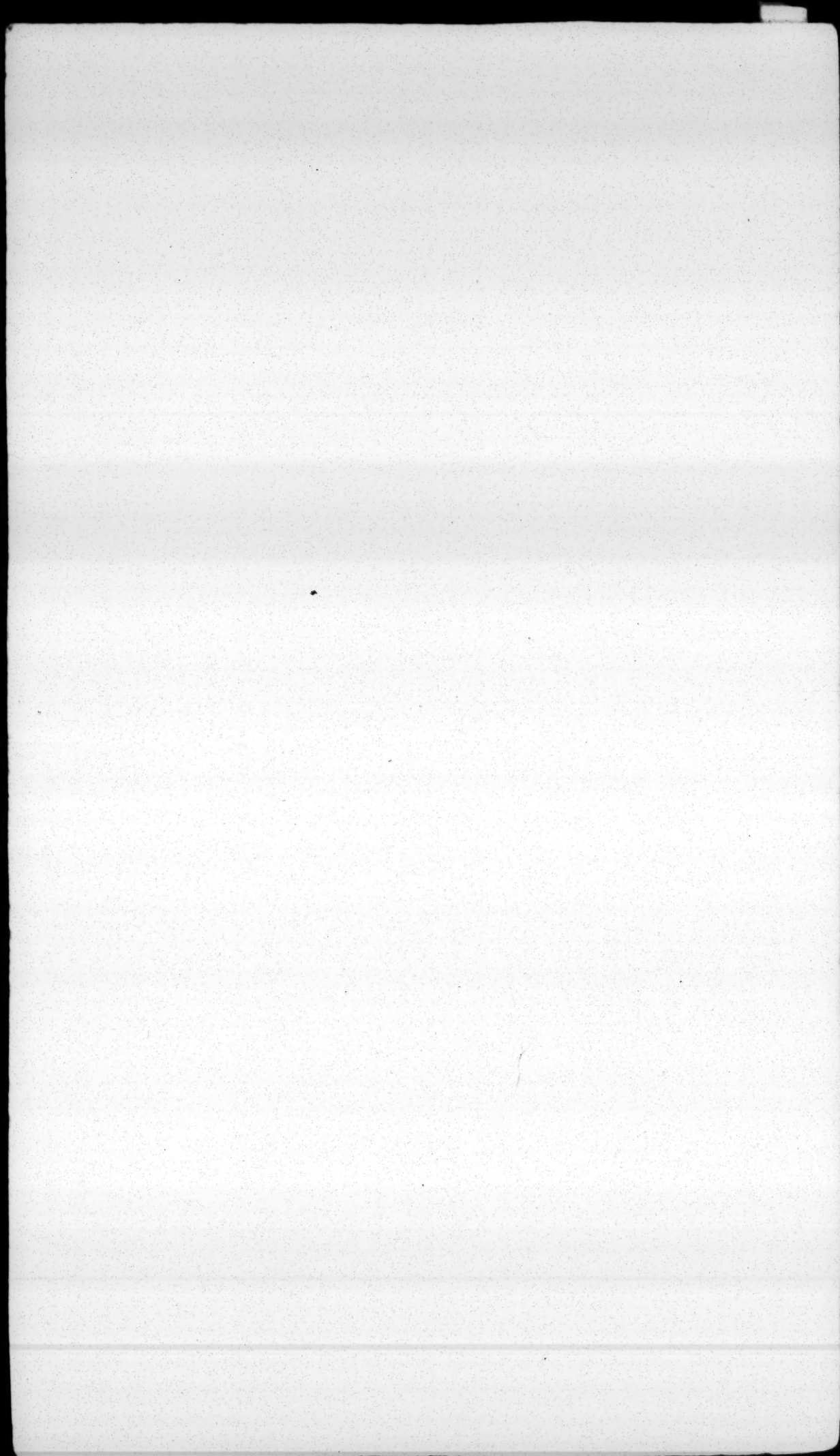
EXPORTS		for 1776.		
Barley and Malt	26252 Barrels.	14438 12 —		
Beans and Pease	2086	1303 15 —		
Oats	187358	70259 5 —		
Wheat	28342	30703 16 8		
Rye	88	66 — —		
Bread	13302 cwt. 2 21	9311 17 7½		
Flour	12032 cwt. — 7	7219 4 9		
Wheat Meal	200 Barrels.	266 13 4		
Oat Meal	39428 cwt.	14785 10 —		
			148354 14 4½	

EXPORTS		for 1777.		
Barley and Malt	2892 Barrels.	1590 12 —		
Beans and Pease	5120	3200 — —		
Oats	191644	71866 10 —		
Wheat	32414	35115 3 4		
Rye		— — —		
Bread	29627 cwt. — 7	20738 18 10½		
Four	24541 cwt. — 21	14724 14 3		
Wheat Meal		— — —		
Oat Meal	17649 cwt.	6618 7 —		
			153854 5 5½	

EXPORTS		for 1778.		
Barley and Malt	28208 Barrels.	16924 16 —		
Beans and Pease	3136	2352 — —		
Oats	129740	51891 — —		
Wheat	23232	23232 — —		
Rye	16	24 — —		
Bread	18073 cwt. — 14	12651 3 9		
Flour	24475 cwt. 2 21	14085 8 3		
Wheat Meal	400 Barrels.	400 — —		
Oat Meal	7302 cwt.	2920 16 —		
			125081 4 —	

EXPORTS		for 1779.		
Barley and Malt	26502 Barrels.	15901 4 —		
Beans and Pease	706	529 10 —		
Oats	45830	18332 — —		
Wheat	7834	7834 — —		
Rye		— — —		
Bread	12737 cwt.	8915 18 —		
Flour	26283 cwt. — 7	15769 16 9		
Wheat Meal	516 Barrels.	516 — —		
Oat Meal	1639 cwt.	695 12 —		
			68494 — 9	

749809 4 6½





It appears there is a balance in favour of import these last ten years, to the amount of 181,160l. 3s. 2d. notwithstanding there has been paid no less a sum than 482,578l. 4s. 1d. in land-carriage bounty during that period; and if it had not been for the war with America, which has been the salvation of this country, your agriculture would have been annihilated, notwithstanding this enormous bounty; for you opened your ports at all times to the redundancy of her harvests, and depended on her for the seed to raise the raw material for your staple manufacture. As this bounty has not increased agriculture, even to supply our own consumption; so, instead of improving the quality of the grain, it has debased it, especially in the county of Kilkenny, where this bounty most operates. There are in that county, a multitude of little mills, which are carried on by persons of small capitals, who grind for the profit of the bounty alone; and as they receive the same premium for flour of the very worst quality, (which of-

ten does not sell for the amount of the bounty) as for the best, they make little or no distinction in the quality of the grain; the consequence is, that as the farmer can get as ready a sale for dirty blighty corn, as for that which is clean and well coloured, he takes little pains in the culture. The best of our farmers are but slovenly, but the county of Kilkenny farmer exceeds all description; whereas before this bounty took place, they were reckoned the best in the kingdom †. There was flour sold in Dublin last year, for two shillings and six-pence per hundred, which is the price of bran; and yet a premium was

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† The debasement of the agriculture of this Country is owing to another circumstance, the effect of this bounty: Many of the landlords allow their tenants 20s. per barrel for all wheat for which they produce Millers receipts. The consequence is, that the farmers are only anxious to get their lands to produce wheat, let the quality be ever so bad; which induces them to sow their lands two or three years following with wheat, whereas no good grain can be produced but after fallow or clover.

paid



paid to bring this stuff to Dublin, of four shillings and six-pence per hundred.

It shall now be made appear, that the immense sums taken out of the public revenue, to encourage agriculture through this medium, are entirely thrown away; and that if this law should be continued, instead of 70,000*l.* bounty, paid last year, it may increase in the course of a few years, to twice that sum; and that a bounty on the export, which by the experience of near a century in England, has been found to be the only rational and effectual encouragement of agriculture, cannot operate here, but only add to the dissipation of the public revenue, till all partial bounties to carry corn or flour, either by land or water, from one part of the kingdom to the other, are abolished. This assertion will be proved by observing the imports and exports of 1779; there was that year corn,

C 2

flour,

flour, &c. imported to the amount of  
102,059l. 14s. 0d. and exported to the amount of  
68,494l. 0s. 9d.

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33,565l. 13s. 3d. balance in favour of  
import; and yet there was paid that year,  
export bounty, 3465l. 3s. 7d. and in land  
and coast bounty, 70370l. 8s. 10d. which  
was not only entirely thrown away, but in-  
creased your import, by draining away the  
corn from the interior parts of the country,  
to be replaced at a great additional expense,  
from the sea ports. It is obvious, therefore,  
that 67864l. 8s. 10d. of the public reve-  
nue was employed last year, to no other  
purpose than destroying the roads; and  
shews that these two bounties only counter-  
act each other. In the year 1777, there was  
the greatest export of corn from this king-  
dom, ever known, amounting to 153,854l.  
5s. 5d. h. If an increased export bounty  
had been given that year, according to the  
different rates that shall be mentioned here-  
after, in the winter, when corn was cheap,  
you might have exported the above quanti-  
ty;



ty; which would have assisted the farmer, and encouraged agriculture. The utmost expense would have been 18,000*l.* on your export, and your import that year, though it amounted to 105,571*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* would have been attended with no expense to the public, in whose favour there was a balance of export, to the amount of 48,282*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* whereas, in the manner the bounty is now blindly bestowed, there was a greater premium paid in 1779, though the balance was in favour of import 33,505*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*

The present export bounty on flour is 10*d.* per hundred; all the flour that is sent from the neighbourhood of Corke to Dublin, costs the public six shillings per hundred. Is it not a fact, that when that flour is exported from Dublin, that the public pay 6*s.* per hundred on its export? and that it will be exported from Dublin rather than from Corke, is certain, when the bounty overpays the carriage 2*s.* per hundred, by which means the merchant gets that bounty on its export,

export, instead of 10d. A merchant in Corke, who has mills of his own, intends sending all his flour by land to Dublin, and then bringing it back again by water, and will receive another bounty on its being exported; and there is nothing, as the law stands, to prevent him. The greatest part of the flour that is exported from Dublin, stands the public in a bounty of 3, 4, 5, and 6s. per hundred. To what a prodigious sum must it come to of a great export year; and in the course of four or five years, these bounties may come to 100,000l. per ann. consequently it will not be possible to pay this enormous bounty, but by a land-tax; for if this premium was confined to the supply of Dublin alone, you might know the extent of the expense; but now, besides large quantities of flour returned back again to Corke and Waterford, Newry, Belfast and Derry, are supplied from Dublin. There is no forming an estimate, therefore, of what expense this bounty may be to the nation. The report of a committee of the house of commons, in 1774, asserted that the land carriage



carriage bounty could never come to more than 49,000*l.* supposing all the Barley to come as malt, and all the wheat as flour; yet, in four years after, it came to 72,000*l.* for in 1778, you paid 45,487*l.* for the carriage of 330,173 hundred weight of flour, which was equal to the produce of 180,784 barrels of wheat; besides there was a bounty paid for 88,403 barrels of wheat sold in the market-house of Thomas-street, which was together, 69,187 barrels of wheat more than the whole consumption of Dublin, supposing it to be 200,000 barrels per ann. which the report mentions the consumption to be, one year with the other, for the last twenty; which, if brought all in flour, the land-carriage bounty would not come to 50,000*l.* yet there was paid more than 70,000*l.*

The quantity of wheat and flour exported that year from the whole kingdom, was but equal to 29,983 barrels. Supposing all this to have been exported from Dublin, it still leaves near the produce of 40,000 barrels

rels to be returned to the south, or sent to the north, or for perjury, by making false affidavits to increase the quantity.

The public suffers a still greater injury by the export of flour from Dublin, than by the dissipation of the revenue; most of the flour sent to Dublin is made out of corn only half dried, as it is for immediate use; when this comes to be exported, the merchants will find such ill-manufactured flour will not bear a voyage to a warm climate, and consequently bring a discredit on our infant manufacture; whereas, if all the flour was exported immediately from the port contiguous to the neighbouring mills, they, for their own credit and future benefit, would be careful in the manufacture to make the whole cargo of one regular quality; now the merchant in Dublin, buys up his quantity of many different sorts, as he is tempted by lowness of price, to the purchase of ordinary, stale, ill-manufactured stuff. Another advantage of exporting immediately from the nearest ports to the mills,



mills, would be, as it is the finest flour that bears a voyage best, and is in greatest demand abroad, the coarser and more ordinary kind would be left for the lower class of people, and for biscuit, which is a manufacture that may be extended to a great advantage to this kingdom; a considerable quantity is sent from Waterford, for the fishery at Newfoundland. They at present are obliged to bring most of the flour, used in this manufacture, from Dublin.

If the land-carriage bounty is abolished, it will not injure the mills carried on by persons of capital; for as the law points out only one market for them all, the consequence is, that market is glutted, as it is at present, and was last year. The only person that can carry on the business is, he who works for the profit of the bounty alone, which will never pay for a large capital. Who is the person that has made any thing considerable in the business since the commencement of this bounty? Many persons have sold estates to build and support

D

mills,

mills, but no miller has yet been known to to have been a purchaser. The bounty has been an *ignis fatuus* tempting many persons totally unacquainted with business, to engage large fortunes in erecting of mills, to the great distress of themselves and families.

Most of the mills worth consideration, are situated on, or near navigable rivers; and if, instead of the present local bounty, a large one (as I shall point out hereafter) was given on the export, and the corn not turned out of its natural channel as at present, all those mills (or to call them by the name they deserve, public granaries) situated so as both to supply a home market, export a redundant harvest, and get a supply from abroad in case of a scanty one, must flourish independent of this bounty. If in the course of two years after this bounty is withdrawn, any inland mill can prove that their profits have been reduced, if the public was to pay the cost of those mills, they would make a cheap purchase.

This



This bounty seems most calculated for the benefit of carmen; yet by the miserable appearance of themselves and horses, one would not suppose much of the profit rested with them; therefore they would suffer no injury to oblige them to take to another way of life; they cannot go into one more laborious; the land will be applied to the feeding more useful cattle than horses, and the public will not be at the present great expense of repairing the roads, torn up by a multitude of narrow-wheeled creaking cars.

At the time of passing this act, there certainly required something to be done to encourage agriculture; for from the time England opened her ports to receive our provisions, it gave great encouragement to turn our lands from tillage to pasture; consequently, from 1740 to 1758, your agriculture of course decreased; and to throw more weight into the declining scale, the house of commons came to a resolution, that lands turned to the feeding of cattle should pay no tythe. That alone was giving pas-

ture the advantage of tillage, by full 101. per cent. This shews the necessity of an export bounty to counteract this resolution.

If, instead of this bounty, how simple and cheap, yet how powerful the means to encourage agriculture, and how blind not to follow the example of Great-Britain. She allows no foreign corn or flour to come in on her farmers, till the price rises to 30s. our barrel. That alone is a greater encouragement to agriculture, than if she gave twice the present bounty on the export, which is 3s. on our barrel.

Though London is eight times as large as Dublin, yet it never entered into the thoughts of any person in England to propose such a bounty as ours, to supply it. You may see the average price of corn all over England, published in the London gazette, which shews that corn is as cheap in London as in most other ports, and in consequence has a considerable export, and receives the same bounty as from every other



other port. If, at the time of passing this act, our ports had been shut against corn of all countries till the middle price rose to 25s. our barrel, Dublin would have been equally as well supplied, without any expense to the nation ; for giving a good market is greater encouragement than giving any local bounty, that tends to destroy that market ; the enforcing the payment of the additional six pence per hundred, on the import of English and foreign flour, was of more service to the establishing your mills, than the land-carriage bounty.

The most fatal consequence of this bounty was, the counteracting and defeating your inland navigations ; which, at the time of passing the act, were going on all over the kingdom. It is certain, that noble undertaking, the Grand Canal, would long ago have been completed to the Barrow, by which means the finest part of Ireland, for a supply of corn, would have been opened to Dublin by those three noble rivers, the Barrow, Nore and Suir. Whenever the  
land-

land-carriage bounty is abolished, the corn of the county of Kildare will be brought to Dublin by that canal, as there is no doubt it will soon be compleated as far as Naas, by the present able engineer; when the toll on corn and flour alone, will give the undertakers an immediate profit, and encourage them to proceed in so noble a work.

It will be the astonishment of succeeding times, that this nation, at the very same period that she expended 500,000l. in attempting to make navigable rivers and canals, there was a bounty to carry corn and flour, such bulky commodities by land, along the banks of those rivers and canals, to the amount of near 600,000l.

I shall now take the liberty of giving my ideas on the means most conducive to establish and secure your agriculture, and to revive again, the spirit to undertake inland navigation, on the compleating of which your manufactures and commerce depends. The present land-carriage bounty in no  
shape



shape conduces to those great ends, being founded in a total ignorance of every principle of commerce, and repugnant to the particular situation of the country, being an island. There can be no doubt of the necessity of repealing the present law, and passing the following perpetual corn act.— To shut our ports against the importation of all corn and flour, till the average price of wheat rose in the different ports to 25s. our barrel, Rye 20s. Barley 12s. and Oats 10s. by no means to except the corn and flour of England. She will not let our wheat be imported till the price rises to 30s. our barrel. This will secure you plenty; then to prevent the fatal effects of too great an abundance, (for to secure always a sufficiency, you must in general grow more than you can consume) to give a bounty on the export as follows, viz, 2s. 6d. on wheat, per barrel of twenty stone, while the average price is under 23s. per barrel; 2s. per hundred on flour, and 2s. 6d. per hundred on biscuit, when wheat continues under the above limits; 1s. 6d. on rye, beans

beans and pease, while the price is under 20s. per barrel; 1s. 3d. on barley and malt, while the price is under 12s. per barrel; and 1s. per hundred on oatmeal, and 1s. per barrel on oats, while the price is under 8s. (this bounty is about 12l. percent. on the different commodities) with a liberty to export without a bounty, at all times above those limits. Flour must be always exported in casks, which costs as much as the bounty, viz. 2s. per hundred. They should always have the name and abode of the miller branded on them, before the bounty could be received.

The freight in consequence is much higher than wheat, the package of which takes up no room, and sells for what it costs. If you wish to retain or extend your present export of flour and biscuit, to the West Indies, it must be by a large bounty, or America, when there is a peace, will greatly undersell you.

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I will here draw the comparison between these limitations and those of England. She shuts her ports against importation, till the price rises to 30s. our barrel, on wheat, and so in proportion on other grain ; and gives a bounty of 3s. our barrel, on the export, till the price is 26s. 6d. our barrel ; 1s. 6d. on barley and malt, till the price is 13s. and 1s. 3d. on oats and oatmeal, till the price is 8s. 6d. per barrel.

The lands in England are fallen notwithstanding the great encouragement given to agriculture, and high as the bounties are on export, her farmers cry out at the low price of corn, though the average price of wheat at present, is 2s. 6d. per barrel, higher than in this kingdom. The English parliament, in order to give all imaginable efficacy to the bounty on exportation, have this session passed an act to allow the bounty on corn exported in foreign vessels ; dispensing with the act of navigation held sacred since the reign of Charles the second. How is it possible our

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miserable farmers, without necessary offices or capital, can pay the present rents by tillage, without the legislature enable them to do it by the methods pointed out, viz. preventing import, and giving a large bounty on the export.

Great as this encouragement would give to agriculture, there is a much greater if it could be accomplished; and it easily might, if it was set about with a determination to find out the most proper and equitable means of doing it,—giving the clergy a certain income, out of land, in their different parishes, instead of tythe; for how is it possible your lands can be cultivated to their utmost improvement, when the law says now to the occupier, if you are industrious, and improve your land, you shall not only pay a tenth of the produce, but of your labour; but if you are idle, and let your land remain in a state of nature, you shall pay nothing.

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The writer will be happy if what has been mentioned on these important subjects, may claim the attention of those gentlemen, whose influence and situation in this country puts it in their power to compleat, what he can only wish—the prosperity of Ireland.

F I N I S.





